

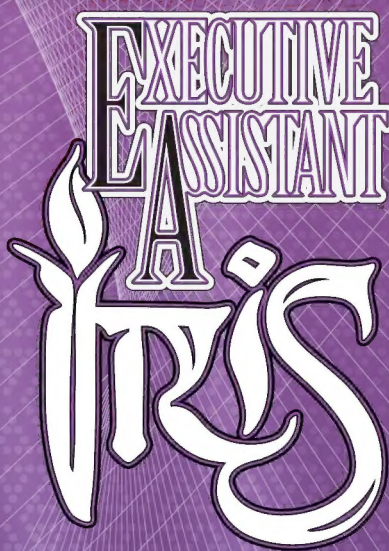
SOURCEBOOK

EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT
Kris



#1
VOL.1





SOURCEBOOK

Executive Assistant: Iris Created By
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Welcome to the world of...

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: IRIS

In the world of clandestine operations, there are many well-known classes of professional. The spy, the assassin, the special forces soldier -- all of these have become fodder for fiction and the cultural zeitgeist. There is another brand -- the executive assistant -- that is considerably less well known but equally fearsome.

Mostly trained from a young age to serve with distinction, executive assistants are clandestine operatives trained in multiple disciplines. They work as bodyguards, personal clerks, accountants, enforcers and sometimes concubines, doing everything they can to ensure the happiness and safety of their employers. Their work is extraordinarily lucrative, leaving most executive assistants accustomed to taking off from private runways and stocked safe houses in every corner of the globe.

Their loyalty is a combination of the conditioning as part of the training they undertake, the enormous financial rewards, and in some cases, cultural proclivities. Embedding the desire to serve is the first element of training an executive assistant, using psychological methods of breaking down the individual's resolve similar to the hazing done by fraternities, but in a much more concentrated and directed fashion. Writer David Wohl suggested that the Asian executive assistant academies play more towards the submissive and sexual needs of employers, while schools in England focus more on spy craft and subterfuge.

This sourcebook is your definitive guide to the exciting world of Executive Assistants, centering around the most highly regarded graduate of their system, Iris...



CONTENTS

02	Iris
10	Ching
12	Rose
14	Lily
18	Lotus
20	Violet
22	Academies

IRIS



Iris

Name: N/A

Occupation: Executive assistant, assassin, espionage agent

Identity: Iris is a citizen of China with an extensive criminal record. Her identity is known to governmental intelligence agencies.

Height: 5'7"

Weight: 118 pounds

Hair: Black

Eyes: Brown

Known Relatives: None

Education: Iris was educated at the executive assistant Academy at Wuhan.

Aliases/Nicknames: Nakiko Inaba

Skills/Abilities: Iris is widely regarded to be the most skillful executive assistant to have ever matriculated through the Wuhan Academy. Her skills are second to none in the fields of hand-to-hand combat, marksmanship and espionage; having never been defeated by any other assailant. While Iris has shown a preference for using a katana, she is highly skilled with throwing daggers, pistols, assault rifles, sniper weaponry, poisons and various other weapons.

Place of Birth: Wuhan, China

Marital Status: Single



Personal History: VOLUME 1:

The woman who came to be known as Iris was found as a homeless, orphaned preschooler in the streets of Wuhan, China. Like many young female orphans in the city, she was taken to the Executive Assistant academy and given the option of accepting training and an opportunity to survive in return for lifelong obedience.

Iris befriended a classmate named Lian at the academy, but one day they were caught playing in the rain and consequently locked up in a storm cellar by a school bully.

Shortly after this, Iris was forced into her first trial by combat, facing off against Lily, who'd been the academy champion for two years. Iris defeated Lily, which led to being treated to better food and accommodations, unlike Lily who was forced to eat on the floor and exiled from the Academy weeks later.

Upon graduation, Iris went to work for corporate titan, Francis Wai-Hong Ching. She served Ching in many capacities: managing his calendar, serving as a secretary for important business functions, eliminating people Ching considered a negative impact on his business, and acting as a bodyguard and concubine. When Ching's company was locked in aggressive negotiations with a Russian minister named Krivlov demanding bribes, Ching ordered Iris to send his "warmest regards." Iris murdered her way through Krivlov's guards on his private estate and left a knife dripping with blood stuck to the wall over Krivlov's daughter. The Belarusian deal went through immediately, according to Ching's specifications.

Iris next followed Ching to Kabul, Afghanistan, where he met with local figure Master Safin. Safin rejected Ching's offer of tea, and attempted to take Ching hostage, his men drawing their guns. Iris quickly murdered all of Safin's men, leaving Safin at the end of Iris' sword, now willing to accept the offer.

Iris returned with Ching to his corporate holdings in the United States, and one of Ching's subordinates named Dennis Rucker approached her after a meeting to ask her out. She refused him and he then asked if he could run business ideas by her, not hiding his attraction. With some reluctance, she gave him her phone number.

Iris next took on a mission to assassinate a member of Ching's corporate board named Alan Chu, who was pressing the CEO for too much information on illicit activities. Iris followed Chu to a Century City hotel where his family was staying. After Chu went to sleep, Iris snaked a cable and camera through the ventilation shafts, allowing her to poison her victim in his sleep while making it appear as natural causes.

Iris enjoyed some time with Rucker the following day, taking a drive down the Malibu coast. Rucker took Iris for a game of mini-golf, saying that whoever lost had to buy dinner. Before they could complete the round, Ching summoned Iris and she demanded Rucker return her.

A few days later, Ching and Iris attended Chu's funeral in New York City. Chu's daughter recognized Iris from the Century City hotel, but no one paid the child any mind. Later that day, Iris accompanied Ching to a meeting with his business partners, a consortium of criminals who demanded more of a share in profits from all of Ching's enterprises. Ching wasn't happy with this demand.

Ching contemplated his next move while his silent business partners launched an attack on him using gunmen strapped with suicide bombs, crashing through the windows of his residence and detonating the facility. Iris managed to get Ching into a panic vault in the floor before the explosion. This reminded her of the storm cellar incident from





IRIS

her childhood, which made her all the more willing when Ching ordered vengeance against his disloyal business partners.

Iris began seeking vengeance for Ching towards his illicit business partners, and the first on her list was smuggler and gang lord, Victor Hwang. Iris headed to Monte Carlo to track down information on Hwang's location, using her feminine wiles to get GPS information from one of Hwang's associates. She disposed of the man on a nearby beach and continued on towards Hwang's yacht.

Iris made a silent approach to the yacht using diving equipment, killing guards as she made her approach until she ran across Hwang's executive assistant Rose. Iris defeated Rose easily, ignoring Rose's warning that the school wanted Ching dead and that she couldn't possibly kill all the executive assistants ahead. Iris then confronted Hwang and made as though she would allow him to live, but once off the yacht, remotely detonated explosives she had planted there prior.

She returned to Ching, who told her Rucker had been calling and that she should keep him on the hook. However, her work soon led her to be dispatched to the Shinjuku District of Tokyo. Her mission was to infiltrate the business of Takeo Suzuki, owner of a series of gang-operated pachinko parlors, casinos, and brothels dotting Japan, China, and Thailand.

One of Suzuki's men, Vic Takahashi, ran a gambling den in Shinjuku and Iris posed as demure aspiring card dealer, Nakiko Inaba. Iris used her looks to wow Takahashi, who gave her information on how to find Suzuki at a place called the Yummy Yummy Hostess Bar. Iris recognized a green-haired dancer as Lily, the girl from Iris' academy who had been hand-to-hand combat champion for two years, but was humbled and exiled after Iris defeated her. Lily seemed to not recognize Iris, but the man she was dancing for grabbed Iris hand, asking her

to join them. Iris left quickly, anxious to complete her mission without further incident.

Iris continued on to the Yummy Yummy Hostess Bar, and was shown to Suzuki's table where he plied her with Cristal champagne, which he called "a prerequisite for all my interviews." Although things seemed to be going as planned, while Suzuki was kissing Iris, she didn't notice his guards pull out weaponry. Suzuki asked her if Nakiko was the name she had used when she killed Hwang, and revealed that he knew Ching was sending an executive assistant to murder him. Iris smashed a bottle across his head and fought her way out through the nearest window, with Suzuki's guards in hot pursuit.

Iris lured the guards out for a rooftop chase, letting them think they were getting the drop on her, and then killed them all. She made her way back to Suzuki and found him and all his men dead, with Lily standing in the middle of the carnage. Lily revealed she had recognized Iris immediately, and surrenders, falling to her knees.

Ching was delighted to hear about these developments. However, she grew distracted as he offered praise, spilling tea she poured for him because Ching ordered her to end her dalliance with Rucker and dismissed her.

Yet, Iris instead accepted Rucker's cryptic invitation to a party, which turned out to be dinner with his mother. Later, she impulsively kissed him after the table was cleared, revealing her feelings for him.

On Ching's orders, Iris soon returned to Wuhan to assassinate "Father," the man named Shuji Wai Hong Li, who had run the Wuhan school for executive assistants since Iris was a student. The new secured location was more than Iris was comfortable handling, so she asked Lily to assemble a team of rejected executive assistants to

breach the facility. Before making her attack, Iris reminisced in the ruins of the old school, thinking of the harsh treatment and the hopeless fate of servitude that was the reward for obedience.

Lily agreed to distract the guards at the new state-run facility, while Iris made a stealthy approach, first acting as a sniper to cover Lily and her team at the gate until the current class of students appeared to oppose them. Iris snuck onto the campus, and finally confronted Hong Li and his two Executive Assistants. Iris easily dispatched the duo but held off until Lily and the other rejected students could arrive. They all joined in for revenge on the man who'd created their current situations.

Iris resumed her relationship with Rucker, waking up next to him at his beachside Malibu home. She noticed men in a boat offshore observing them and decided to leave, unaware that Rucker had an engagement ring ready to ask her to marry him.

Iris joined Ching on a trip to meet his corporate board in Los Angeles. The meeting was brief, with Ching assuring the board that the company was on stable footing after an assassination attempt. Iris was testily called into his office and shown pictures of Rucker meeting with Department of Justice agents. Ching asked Iris if she had followed his orders and ended her relationship with Rucker, and she lied, saying it was over. Ching then ordered her to "take care of this in a professional manner," and Iris committed to dealing with Rucker permanently.

She called Rucker and had him drive her out to a scenic cliff overlooking the ocean. When the time came, rather than shoving him over the ledge, Iris instead put her arms around his body. She revealed that Ching knew about Rucker's meeting with the DOJ agents, and asked if his relationship with her was a ploy to get to Ching. Rucker denied that idea, saying what they had was "real," and that the agents asked him questions about a host of criminal activities but he knew nothing to tell them. Rucker then admitted that he was worried for Iris' safety. She kissed him passionately and suggested they leave.



Iris got out of Rucker's bed at 2:20 AM, checking out Rucker's computer to verify his story. She found that the agents were asking about Iris specifically, trying to connect her international travel to bodies stacking up in cities around the world. She returned to bed to shockingly discover that Rucker had been shot through the forehead. She realized the danger she was in and burst through a window to confront a team of armed federal agents.

Taking several agents out, Iris saw the true assassin -- a woman in a tight black bodysuit on a motorcycle -- driving off. Iris made her way towards Rucker's sports car and crashed through the garage door, pursuing the female assassin. She ignored a call from Ching that came in and discovered that the brake lines had been cut as she sped along a mountainside road. Out of control, the car careened off the road, through a safety rail and smashed into the rocks below, exploding violently.

Iris managed to jump out at the last possible moment and stayed out of the assassin's sight-- clearly another executive assistant-- who was reporting to Ching via phone.

Iris stayed in California to see Rucker's funeral, reflecting on the tragedy she had caused Chu's, and now Rucker's family. Iris then met Lily in downtown Los Angeles, beginning preparations for a mission to kill Ching in Dubai.

In the under-construction complex in Dubai, Iris killed three mohawked female assassins who scoffed at the ethical trappings espoused by executive assistants. She found Ching alone in his penthouse office, where he revealed plans of opening more thorough Executive Assistant academies and offered to take her back. Iris responded by sinking a katana through his throat. All but finished with her task, Iris was then surprised by a familiar face that fired two tranquilizer darts, successfully knocking her unconscious.

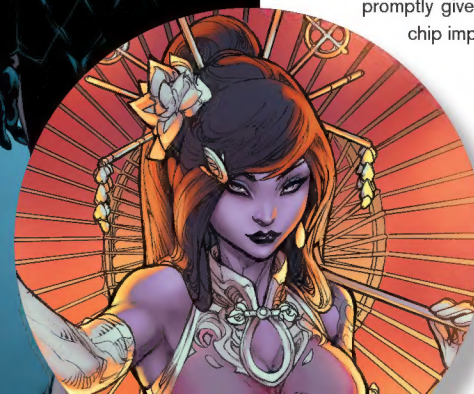
VOLUME 2:

Iris fell under the control of Duncan Villone, a ruthless billionaire with plans to use forcefully-recruited executive assistants to further increase his wealth. The familiar face that surprised Iris was Rose, who brought the unconscious Iris back to Villone's forces to have a microchip implanted in her body, which helped Villone keep the rebellious Iris under control.

Iris next appeared at an assassination attempt on beleaguered CEO heiress, Diane Coverdale. After hiring a gunman and making sure he was close enough to make a very convincing attempt, Iris murdered the assassin. She followed Coverdale to another academy in Dubai where the businesswoman hired executive assistant Acteia to protect her, which was very much in line with Villone's plans.

Acteia faithfully protected Coverdale from threats both real and fabricated until responding late one night to a potential invader at Coverdale's mansion. Acteia was tranquilized by Iris and taken to the Maldives-- a tropical nation Villone used as a base of operations-- and promptly given the same treatment as Iris, getting a control chip implanted in her body.

Iris was on hand with Rose and executive assistant Juniper when Duncan Villone treated Acteia to dinner, where he began his attempt at recruiting Acteia into his service. She eventually refused him at gunpoint, and while he eluded her, Rose and Iris attacked Acteia. Acteia was able to best Rose but Iris got the drop on the younger Executive Assistant, the conflict ending with Acteia's





throat near the tip of Iris' sword. Much to Acteia's surprise, Villone then ordered Iris to let her go.

Acteia then returned to her employer's side, apologizing for her unexpected departure. Uninterested in any explanation, Coverdale dismissed Acteia's excuses, and the two headed for a business meeting in Los Angeles. To Acteia's dismay, the final businessman to show up was her recent captor, Duncan Villone, along with Iris and Juniper.

After refusing Villone's offer to purchase shares in her company, Coverdale agreed to accompany him to Las Vegas, where he once again presented his offer. Coverdale refused a second time, so Villone activated his control of Acteia and forced the hapless assistant to brutally kill her employer. Acteia struggled with this command, but ultimately shot Coverdale in the head. However, this reluctance prompted Villone to order Acteia's immediate beheading. Iris quickly obliged.

Iris felt her chip was malfunctioning as she began to doubt her blind allegiance to Villone. She hoped to ask him for help after a night of entertaining clients at a local club. However, that night Iris encountered Orchid, who warned her that Villone was dangerous, and was not to be trusted. Iris hid this encounter from Rose as they departed.

Villone ordered Iris to fly with Juniper and Rose for a mission in India, demolishing a factory with explosives. Iris recognized the intent, that she would not come back from this mission, and struck out at Juniper and Rose. Iris almost defeated both of them in battle until Rose used the chip in Iris' spine to take control. Rose forced Iris to take the last explosive to the factory's generator and sit with it in her lap. Rose relished the chance for revenge after her defeat at Iris' hands and left Iris to die in the explosion.

Unbeknownst to Rose, Violet, and executive assistant Lotus followed them and captured Iris, knocking her out and dragging her into a hatch under the factory. Working together with Iris' old rival Lily and the elder Orchid, they made arrangements with the CIA to get the microchip altered so it could control other chips. Iris then joined the women in a plan to take down Villone.



Landing at Villone's headquarters in the Maldives, Iris and her team of "rejects" were surprised by automated defenses on the beach and were soon captured by a team of mercenaries. Iris watched as Villone was vexed by her survival. As punishment for their failure to kill Iris, Villone ordered his men to execute Juniper, and told Rose to take Iris to the brig to languish with her team.

On the way, Iris took control of Rose's microchip and forced a switch in allegiance. Iris took Rose to free the others, and together they confronted a squad of heavily armed mercenaries and Villone's newest executive assistants, Snapdragon and Wisteria. In the course of battle, a sniper almost took out Iris, but Violet jumped in front of the shot. Iris took out the sniper but unfortunately, Violet died in her arms.

The "rejects" advanced on Villone's private quarters and confronted the billionaire, who revealed that he worked for someone else and his financial imperialist plans couldn't be stopped. Rose held a dagger to Villone's throat angrily. Iris ordered Rose to stop, but Rose had turned off her chip. Rose stabbed Villone to death, leaving the "rejects" without answers.

VOLUME 3:

John Wheeler, one of the world's richest men at age 27, was Iris' next employer. She watched over Wheeler as he took a first date onto a rented yacht for dinner. A paparazzi covertly approached the yacht and climbed aboard only to be greeted by the edge of Iris' sword. She smashed the man's camera and sent him on his way.

As Wheeler's limo drove down New York City's Westside Highway, two cars full of gun-wielding thugs began firing. Iris was able to eliminate the assailants, a set of Russian goons, but the police arrived and arrested her instead. A call came in, commandeering the police cruiser, and they dropped Iris off with CIA agent Dawson. Dawson criticized Iris for attracting too much attention instead of doing her real job, collecting intel on Wheeler for the CIA in order to stay out of jail. Iris stated her reports were comprehensive and Wheeler was surprised by the attack. During the interaction, Iris received a text from Lily, claiming she was in trouble. Agent Dawson then lent Iris a motorcycle so she could go to her fellow executive assistant's aid.

Iris picked Lily up and found out that the arms dealer Muzutsu wanted Lily dead. Iris revealed a secret room in her apartment, housing an arsenal of firearms, and that her new employers at the CIA showed her Muzutsu's file. Lily resisted the idea of working with any source of authority, and quickly left before Iris could explain further.

Iris then received a call from Agent Dawson saying that Wheeler's residence had been compromised. Iris hurried over to find all the guards, as well as Wheeler's new girlfriend Louise, had been murdered. While Wheeler was nowhere to be found, Rose was found sitting calmly amidst the carnage. Rose warned Iris to stay away from Lily, to which Iris responded that Lily was a friend and reminded Rose of past betrayals. Rose then attacked Iris, and as they fought, Iris pushed Rose through a window, temporarily subduing her. Iris used the time to gain some distance from Rose, breaking into the local Bronx Zoo for cover.

Once Rose caught up, the two continued their fight, and Iris defeated Rose and turned her over to the CIA after getting all the information she needed. Next, Iris went to the reptile house of the zoo where Wheeler was being held captive by Rose's employer, a Russian loan shark by the name of Tzvetomir Ivanov. Ivanov demanded a device that he had paid Wheeler to create, but had failed to deliver. When Iris confronted Ivanov, his masked executive assistant Jasmine attacked. However, Jasmine was too aggressive and was easily defeated by Iris. Iris then tried to save Wheeler, and got the drop on Ivanov while he was distracted by an approaching crocodile, effectively disarming him. Before she could finish him off, the CIA burst in, arresting everyone.

Iris was "arrested" and released, to maintain her cover. She met with Agent Dawson, who gave Iris the bad news that Rose was also released due to her connections at the agency, and Mazutsu was actually a CIA asset they wanted Rose to protect. Iris didn't like this, and



told Dawson that she had to track Rose to India to stop the death of Iris' unsuspecting friends. Dawson arranged a charter flight and Iris was on her way.

Once arriving in India, Iris found Rose already attacking Lily, Lotus, Orchid and Aster. Iris quickly fired a gun into the air effectively getting Rose's attention. Working together, the five Assistants captured



Rose, tied her up, and prepared to torture her for information. Suddenly, explosives rocked the building, and a cloud of smoke enveloped the team. In the commotion, Aster and Orchid were neutralized, and the unseen assailant stepped forward revealing she too was an Executive Assistant. The unnamed attacker quickly subdued both Iris, and Lily, then captured Rose and made their escape. The team reluctantly accepted that they had taken a loss and parted ways, content to walk away with their lives.

Iris was flown back to the US and was immediately taken into custody by federal authorities. She was told by Deputy Director Charles Murphy that she was to be shot on sight if she ever interacted with Lotus, Lily, or any of the Executive Assistants she worked with in India ever again. He then sent her to wait at a safe house for reassignment. However, Agent Dawson showed up immediately after Murphy drove off, having contrary orders, telling Iris to keep Wheeler alive to testify against Ivanov.

Iris went to the location where Wheeler was being kept in protective custody just in time to save him from another set of Ivanov's assassins. After killing the two thugs, Iris was about to tell Wheeler he was safe when Jasmine appeared, swords swinging. Agent Dawson was right behind, firing a warning shot, which forced Jasmine to leap through a window and escape. Iris ordered Dawson to protect Wheeler as she pursued Jasmine through the Holland Tunnel where she captured the woman, knocking her off of a speeding van just when



two transit policemen arrived. Jasmine was arrested, and Iris headed back to the safe house.

Several hours later, Lotus came to visit Iris bearing bad news: Orchid had been arrested, and Lily had been killed by Muzutsu. The two joined the remainder of the team, Aster and the previously unnamed foe-turned-ally, Ivy, and decided to seek revenge on Muzutsu, for Lily's sake. Iris agreed to join them.

In Tokyo's Shinjuku District, Iris met with Rose and recruited her for their revenge mission, a recruitment that the other executive assistants considered unwise, but ultimately agreed to. The next day, the team infiltrated Muzutsu's helicopter crew, blowing up his means of escape. Although Iris' team forced their way through Muzutsu's security, they were too late to save Ivy. Iris was angry to find out Muzutsu had escaped, prompting her to pursue him.

When Iris arrived at Muzutsu's hideaway, she found him dead at Rose's hands. Rose immediately attacked Iris, but Iris was able to plunge her sword through Rose's abdomen, seeing her rival die as the rest of her team arrived.

Several days later, Iris and her team laid Lily to rest and parted ways.

VOLUME 4:

Iris returned to Wuhan, China to interview for a job as executive assistant to Maly Ang, a Cambodian émigré and corporate titan. When Iris walked in, only one Executive Assistant didn't walk out intimidated -- Snapdragon, whom Iris had never met.

Ang decided that an impromptu, on-the-job test would settle who deserves the position, and flew Snapdragon and Iris to Tokyo for a meeting with Akinori Suzuki at the Shinjuku District's Purple Blossom Nightclub. The men there wanted to meet with Ang's mentor, Chinese billionaire Han Li Shao, and were disappointed he wasn't there. The

men took Ang's words as insult, and guns were drawn. Snapdragon and Iris went to work slicing their way through the suited goons and Ang also produced a gun, taking out some attackers herself.

As Ang delivered a final, fatal shot, she instructed the executive assistants to "leave no evidence behind," glancing at a club goer with a smartphone filming the entire affair. Snapdragon tossed her sai at the girl but Iris blocked it with her sword, firing a precise shot that knocked the girl's phone out of her hand. Smashing the phone with her heel, Iris insisted that the girl's foolishness was no cause for murder.

Snapdragon took Iris' interception as an insult and attacked her, but was unable to even make contact. Ang interrupted their fight and Iris walked away, turning down the position.

Lost and directionless, Iris returned to the Wuhan academy. Ang approached her there and offered her the job, saying that honor was more important than obedience. Iris was skeptical, asking how she could trust Ang or why she should get involved in such "messy affairs," claiming her mentor Shao set Ang up. At that moment, Shao appeared overhead in a helicopter, yelling that Ang was a traitor.

Shao landed and disembarked with a squad of gunmen, demanding to know where "she" was. Ang denied any knowledge and Iris, tired of having guns pointed in her face, leapt and dispatched three of the gunmen, then pointed her blade at Shao's throat before his men could react. Ang insisted Shao was just using "cheap theatrics" and there was no danger, while Shao warned Iris that her first employer, Mister Ching, should have taught her he was not someone to make an enemy. Iris said she'd kill Shao if he brought up that name again and told him to order his men to stand down. He complied, and demanded Ang reveal where his daughter was.

Ang claimed she knew nothing about Shao's daughter, not even her name. However Shao insisted the girl had to be inside the Wuhan academy, and threatened to go in and get her himself. However, he quickly realized the school's students already surrounded him and his men with weapons drawn. Shao left reluctantly, but Iris wondered why Ang was willing to go this far to hide a girl from her own father. Ang revealed she was actually the girl's illegitimate mother, and that she had brought the girl to Wuhan Academy to keep her safe from Shao, who's only interest is keeping his "noble" image pure at any cost.

Iris considered Ang's offer at her waterfront condo, calling over a CIA agent for advice on how she should proceed. She admitted she was looking for something more than a paycheck, she wanted something to believe in, saying that her honor was not for sale even if her services were. The agent reminded Iris that the girl in hiding is not unlike Iris was fifteen years prior, and was clearly in danger.

Iris met with Ang at her office and was immediately informed that two-dozen of Shao's mercenaries were on their way to the academy. Iris questioned what Ang was going to do, but Ang solemnly replied she was "bound by honor to do nothing." Iris replied she had no such restrictions, and promised the girl's safety. Still not having a name to go off, Ang gave Iris an old picture of the girl, and Iris headed to Wuhan.

Meanwhile, at Wuhan Academy, the mercenaries were stealthily DNA-testing each girl they came across. Once Iris arrived, she immediately went to the headmaster's room and demanded to know where the girl in the photo was. She got her answer, and quickly went to rescue the girl when she ran into a group of mercenaries. She took care of them silently, but unfortunately, three other mercenaries discovered the girl first--the DNA-test confirming her identity as Shao's daughter, Cherry. Iris murdered the men easily with three quick daggers to their throats and absconded with Cherry, waking the girl up as they



escaped. This failure enraged Shao, who then hired Snapdragon to bring his daughter back.

Iris refrained from telling Cherry the details of her situation, which angered the girl into challenging Iris to a fight. Iris easily outmaneuvered Cherry, kicking her into a nearby body of water and telling the girl they have to go. Cherry swam away, forcing Iris to follow her to a nearby shopping mall. Cherry caused a scene, claiming to not know Iris and refusing to go along. As Iris started to walk away, Snapdragon showed up. Iris attacked, yelling at Cherry to run, while four mercenaries went to pursue her. During the scuffle, Iris was knocked partially down an escalator but quickly pulled out a pistol, shooting Snapdragon in the leg. Barely able to escape gunmen and police, Iris took Cherry and commandeered the helicopter ferrying Shao's men. Iris then received coordinates on her phone, and proceeded to take Cherry to that location.

Once they arrived, Iris and Cherry were approached by a Cambodian gangster named Samnang along with dozens of his men. When Iris refused to leave Cherry's side, doubting the girl's safety, the men tazed Iris from behind, leaving her unconscious. Before Samnang could finish her off, Snapdragon appeared, requesting he spare her so she could be the one to defeat the legend. Samang begrudgingly complied and, to her parent's horror, began an online auction for Cherry's life. The bid beginning at \$50 million.

Iris woke up at the Wuhan school with Snapdragon waiting to attack to prove who was superior. Iris ended the fight in the first few moments, decapitating Snapdragon. Iris made her way to Ang's skyscraper to interrupt an argument with Shao, who retreated rather than face Iris unprepared. Ang maintained that her inaction was still only due to her being honor bound to Shao, but Iris berated her for her idleness nonetheless, resigning from her position as Ang's executive assistant. Ang then asked Iris to look at the contract, noting she had not been hired to protect Ang, but rather, she was hired as Cherry's executive assistant assigned to protect the girl.

Iris headed to Phnom Penh, Cambodia where she used her looks to infiltrate the club of Nhean Tran, the man who had tazed her. When she got to him but was finally recognized, she killed three of his men

in mere moments and began shooting holes through him until he revealed who would know where Cherry was being held. Tran reluctantly gave the name "Sakngea". Iris left a trail of dead bodies and explosions across Cambodia, tracking the man, and finally rescuing Cherry. Just as Iris and Cherry were about to be gunned down outside of the safe house, Ang showed up and ran the attackers down with a car, rescuing them both.

At one of Ang's safe houses, Iris revealed that Ang had been a legendary executive assistant named Rumdul working for Shao, which was why she bought the Wuhan school. The three of them suited up to save the school and its students from Shao's wrath. When Shao's men got to the school, they found it empty and had their helicopter blown up while the entire student body joined in an attack on Shao's office in downtown Beijing, destroying all of his men in the process. Iris showed up just in time to save Cherry, who'd lost to her father Shao in single combat. Shao then challenged Iris to fight but she easily disarmed him. Ang ordered Iris to get Cherry and the students to safety, staying to finish off Shao with a huge explosion, which killed them both. Iris and Cherry went off to find a new destiny together.

"IT SHOULD BE A TIME FOR CELEBRATION, BUT I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT MY TROUBLES ARE JUST BEGINNING..."

-IRIS

CHING



Francis Wai-Hong Ching

Occupation: CEO of ChingCorp, Crime Lord

Height: 5'5"

Weight: 180 pounds

Hair: Black

Eyes: Brown

Ethnicity: Chinese (Chinese citizen of Chinese descent)

Known Relatives: None

Education: Ching's educational history is unknown.

Aliases/Nicknames: None

Distinguishing Characteristics: N/A

Skills/Abilities: Ching is a master manipulator of people, which helped him forge a transcontinental corporation and criminal empire. He is a keen student of human nature, and very adaptable to his audience; as comfortable in a boardroom as he is in a den of iniquity. Ching also has an excellent memory, able to recall detailed information on disparate business deals, associated in multiple countries, and keep mental ledgers of debts and balances with each.

Place of Birth: Unknown

Marital Status: Single

Personal History:

Francis Ching emerged from the Chinese criminal underworld with the backing of a group of "silent partners" in his legitimate business interests. With their illicit funds as his base, Ching founded ChingCorp and expanded his business into real estate and oil on multiple continents. ChingCorp expanded its legitimate holdings while serving as a front for his partners and a support system for the legitimate shipping businesses they started. Ching paid out hefty dividends on their

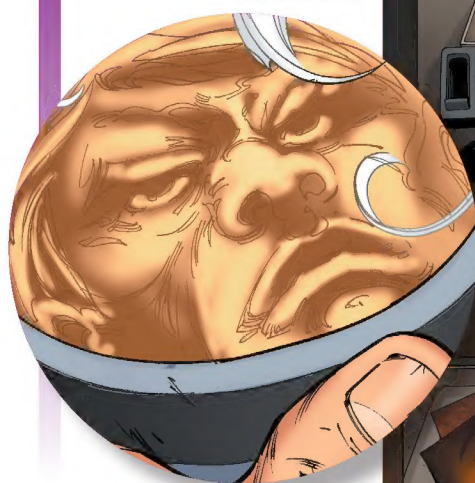
investments and enjoyed a high standard of living (limousines, private jets and pent-houses).

Ching's criminal experience helped him in business. When ChingCorp wanted to build an oil pipeline through Belarus, a greedy official named Nikolai Krilov stymied Ching. Krilov pushed Ching for bribes above and beyond the cost of business, which Ching accepted. However, when Krilov reneged on the deal and wouldn't be moved by further bribery, Ching assigned his executive assistant Iris, reputed to be the best of her occupation, to send a message to Krilov -- a copy of the contract pinned to Krilov's daughter's bedroom wall with a knife covered in the blood of Krilov's guards. The contract was signed with ChingCorp in moments.

Ching continued plans for his pipeline with a meeting with an Afghan warlord named Safin in Kabul. During the meeting, Safin turned down Ching's offer of tea and his men brandished weapons. Ching waited patiently while Iris killed all of Safin's men and then forced the deal through.

On a Friday morning, Ching updated his corporate board about the pipeline only to have his plans questioned by a senior executive named Alan Chu. Ching also noted that one of his junior executives, Rucker, had been spending significant time with Iris with amorous intent. Ching ordered Iris to string Rucker along and "terminate" Chu's employment.

**"NEVER TRUST
A BUSINESS
ASSOCIATE
WHO REJECTS
AN OFFER OF
TEA."**
—CHING



That Saturday Chu turned up dead from a sudden and unexpected heart attack. Ching flew to New York for Chu's funeral the next day on his way to a meeting with his "secret" board of directors, a criminal consortium of three Japanese and Chinese crime lords who funded Ching's initial rise to power. Ching's partners wanted more of a share of his legal profits but he refused their ultimatum. Ching's criminal partners responded with a squad of armed gunmen attacking him in his Los Angeles home, one of whom was strapped with a vest full of C4 plastic explosives. However, Iris was able to get Ching into a panic room safe in the floor just moments before the detonation. Ching vowed vengeance and dispatched Iris to finish off all of his partners.

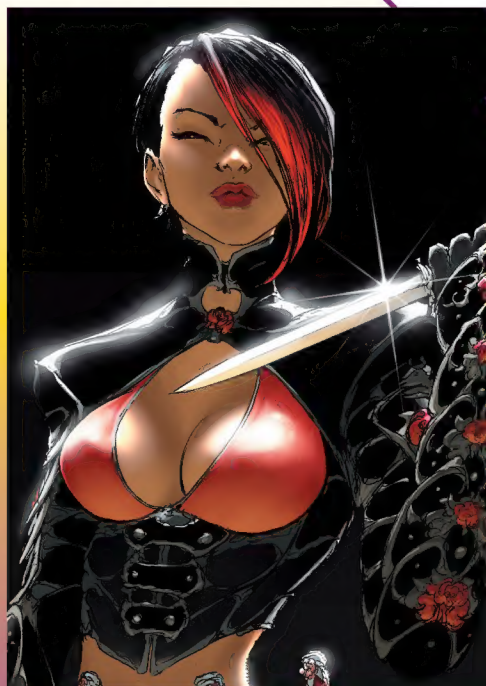
After Iris dispatched the first of Ching's criminal cohorts, Ching made note of Rucker leaving a number of voicemails for her. Ching ordered Iris to end her relationship with Rucker, but was unaware that she disobeyed.

Iris dispatched her next assignments and was distracted when she returned to Ching's service. Ching showed her photos of Rucker meeting with federal agents, reminding her of his order to stop seeing the man. Ching explicitly ordered Iris to kill Rucker. When he received photos showing that she instead bedded the man, Ching sent an executive assistant and a squad of assassins who first murdered Rucker while he slept and then attacked Iris, leading her to drive off a cliff in Rucker's sports car. Ching angrily burned the photos of Iris when he heard word that she was dead.

Ching then flew to Dubai, where he was launching a new corporate headquarters, two skyscrapers of immense proportions. He had a trio of "new breed" mohawked female operatives called Orchids on hand to guard the facility, but they failed to stop Iris. She confronted him and he offered her forgiveness and the chance to return to his service. She responded by putting her sword through him, killing him and ending his ambitious reign.



ROSE



Rose

Name: Unknown

Occupation: Executive assistant

Identity: Rose is a Chinese citizen wanted by law enforcement agencies on at least two continents.

Height: 5'8"

Weight: 121 pounds

Hair: Black with red streak

Eyes: Brown

Known Relatives: None

Education: Rose is a graduate of the Wuhan Academy for executive assistants. As with all executive assistants, Rose has been trained extensively in martial arts, tactical operations, etiquette, criminology and the art of seduction.

Aliases/Nicknames: None

Skills/Abilities: Rose is a superlative hand-to-hand combatant and martial artist, rivaling the executive assistant program's most distinguished graduate Iris in combat proficiency. She is also a highly rated marksman and favors using daggers.

Place of Birth: Unknown

Marital Status: Single

Personal History:

Rose was a contemporary of the Wuhan Academy's greatest graduate, Iris. As young girls, Rose brutally took down a bully at the Academy while Iris looked on, gaining Iris' respect.

As an adult, Rose was taken into the service of Victor Hwang -- a former Shanghai gang leader who moved into the import and export of luxury goods, and supported the legitimate business of mogul Francis

Wai-Hong Ching. She was on hand when Hwang and Ching's other "silent partners" -- vice lord Takeo Suzuki and Shuji Wai Hong Li, shipping magnate and owner of the Wuhan Academy -- demanded a larger share from the profits of Ching's legitimate business.

After a failed assassination attempt on Ching, Iris was dispatched to kill his "silent partners," and when Iris infiltrated Hwang's secret yacht, Rose was there, waiting. The two women hurled razor sharp projectiles at one another and Rose offered Iris a chance to leave Ching's service. Iris impaled Rose with a sword, and Rose fell overboard.

Rose recovered in Spain thanks to eccentric billionaire Duncan Villone, who had her nursed back to health. She was next seen sunning herself in a bikini alongside Iris on a beach in the Maldives, working in the employ of Villone. Rose and Iris were on Villone's team of kidnapped executive assistants, each implanted with a mind control chip putting them under his control. Iris and Rose greeted recently kidnapped executive assistant Acteia and later enjoyed lunch together, displaying how happy they all were in Villone's service.

Later that night, when Acteia refused Villone's offer of employment at gunpoint, Rose and Iris fought her, while in actuality testing Acteia's martial arts abilities. After the fight, Villone let Acteia go, providing her a ride back to her employer. Rose and Iris then reported their assessment of Acteia to Villone.

Rose was next seen at Villone's side for a press conference announcing his takeover of Diane Coverdale's company and a hunt for her killer. Rose was aware of Villone's role in Coverdale's death but maintained her secrecy. She continued to provide overt security for Villone as he continued his plans to expand his business interests. She covered for Iris who stepped away for a moment, curious about what Iris was doing but not pressing hard.

Rose led a mission with Iris and Villone's pilot Juniper to Velchem, an Indian company that "needed to suffer a loss." With satchels full of plastic explosives, the three executive assistants were tasked to demolish the plant. Once Juniper took care of the sole guard on duty, the three of them worked together to plant explosives at key points around the plant. Rose led Iris to a room filled with vats of acid, preparing to follow Villone's orders, and eliminate Iris. Iris instead attacked Rose and Juniper, dodging daggers and accusations. Rose told Iris she was wasting her time and battled furiously with Iris for a few moments, but eventually used voice commands to halt Iris' attack in mid stroke. Rose took Iris' sword and threw it in the acid, then ordered Iris to take a bag of explosives down to the generator connected to the production lines. Rose ordered Iris to sit and hold them. Rose told Iris that she relished the opportunity for vengeance after the battle on Hwang's yacht. She took Juniper and left Iris, holding the explosive, as the detonator counted down to a massive explosion.

When Iris showed up with a team of vengeful former executive assistants at Villone's complex in the Maldives, they were immediately captured and brought to Villone. Rose was apologetic to Villone about not making sure Iris was dead, and Villone believed that Rose was too valuable to punish, so he ordered his men to kill Juniper as punishment for their initial failure. He then ordered Rose to take Iris' team to the brig to be implanted with control chips.

On the way there, Iris used the new alterations in her chip to take control of Rose. She told Rose to unlock her handcuffs, freeing

her. With Iris in control, Rose suddenly became a compliant cohort, helping Iris free her team. Their escape alerted Villone's men, who came down with two more executive assistants called Snapdragon and Wisteria. Rose dodged shurikens and distracted Wisteria while Iris came up and kicked her in the head.

Villone's forces were quickly routed and Iris led Rose and the other women up to confront Villone. He spoke elaborately about his plans and Rose rushed to put a dagger to his throat. Iris ordered Rose not to kill him. She ignored Iris and stabbed Villone in the guts, revealing that she turned her own chip off after seeing its effect on Iris.

They parted ways and Rose offered her services to Mazutsu, an infinitely wealthy arms dealer who developed the technology behind Villone's mind control chips and had a list of executive assistants he planned to either recruit or kill. Mazutsu warned her that Lily had ended every other would-be assassin. Rose was confident in her chances and helped Mazutsu plan his attack on the executive assistants he considered a danger.

She next appeared at the home of Iris' new employer, tech billionaire John Wheeler. Wheeler was missing, his latest romantic conquest lie dead from Rose's daggers and Rose sat on the back of the couch with a dagger dripping blood on the cushions.

Rose mocked Iris for losing another employer and warned her to stay away from the academy reject Lily. When Iris refused, Rose attacked and they fought, eventually tumbling out of a window. Rose, enjoying the idea of fighting with Iris again, followed her nemesis into a closed zoo only to get kicked in the face. Rose ignored Iris' demands for Wheeler's location, instead renewing the fight with vigor. Rose got the drop on Iris but revealed that Rose's employer refused to let Iris be killed. Iris seized on the moment and incapacitated Rose, holding the woman at sword point until she gave up the information before being turned over to the CIA.

Rose's CIA contacts had her released before Iris could return and headed to India to kill Lily and other executive assistants that Iris worked with previously. Iris arrived in time to capture Rose at gunpoint, tying her up in Lotus' kitchen after admitting to Lily that she worked for the arms dealer Mazutsu. Iris was getting ready to torture Rose when the wall of the house was blown up and most of the executive assistants were felled by gas canisters. Rose, still tied to a chair, was knocked to the floor. A mysterious new executive assistant named Ivy entered, and fought off Iris before taking Rose in the smoke and confusion. Ivy was a former lover of Mazutsu and tried to warn Rose away, but as they got to Ivy's safe house, Mazutsu's men attacked with missiles in a stealth military helicopter. Ivy saved Rose and offered her a motorcycle, but also warned her that Mazutsu would inevitably turn on her.

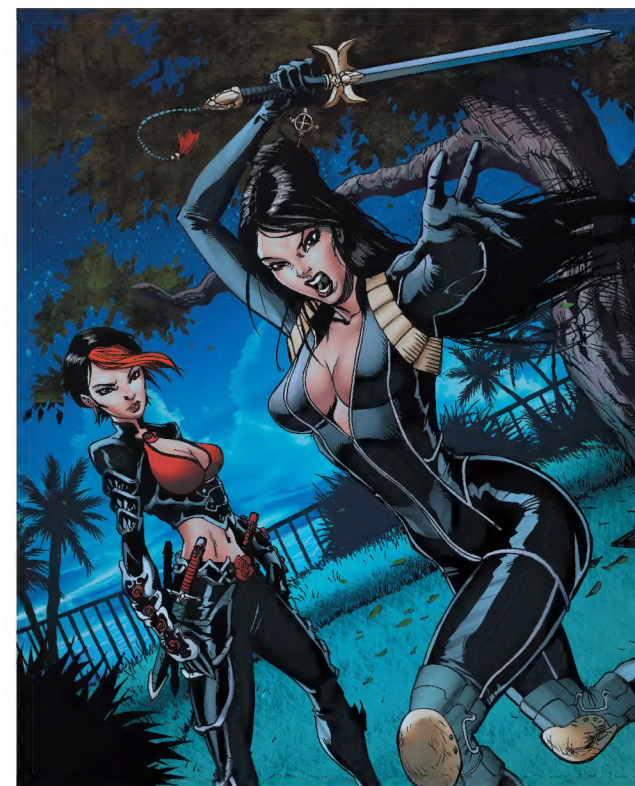
Rose returned to Mazutsu, demanding an explanation, but only managed to get slapped by him. He hurled Rose to the floor and told her about his history with Ivy -- recruiting her from the Israeli special services, enjoying working together, engaging in a romantic relationship and sharing all his secrets with her, eventually being betrayed by her when a better offer came out. This led Mazutsu to train himself to

be able to stand with an executive assistant in addition to expanding his weapons dealing. He told Rose that he wanted to rid his business of executive assistants and take weapons and warfare back to their roots.

Rose led Mazutsu's men to attack a warehouse where Lotus, Lily and the rest were meeting. Rose was tasked with taking on Lily specifically. In the confusion of a gas attack, Rose captured Ivy to use as human shield as Lily aimed a machine gun. Rose forced Lily to drop the weapon, knocked out Ivy and fought Lily. While Lily berated Rose, Mazutsu shot Lily from behind, killing the green haired woman. Rose considered this dishonorable and Mazutsu mocked her, terminating her employment. As law enforcement closed in, Rose escaped and left Mazutsu to be captured.

Realizing she would again be on Mazutsu's hit list, Rose reached out to Iris to offer a truce and team up against the weapons dealer. Rose joined Ivy and her team of executive assistants in attacking Mazutsu's facility in Tokyo. Rose acted as a sniper, clearing a path for Iris and tracked Mazutsu when he used a grenade to elude Iris. She confronted him in his secret office in a renovated temple. He offered Rose a position in his Malaysian operation and she reminded him that he fired her without severance. Mazutsu told her that was a mistake but was reaching for a gun in his desk. Rose saw that and tossed daggers, piercing him through the chest. She retrieved her dagger from him as he died.

Iris came upon the scene and Rose said that she was too late, adding that his death was at least self-defense. Rose asked if Iris was going to call in the CIA and Iris said they should just talk outside. With an electrical taser on her hand, Rose dove at Iris, ready to back it up with a dagger. Rose left herself open and Iris stabbed Iris through the abdomen with a sword. Rose laid down and died there in Mazutsu's office.



LILY



Lily

Name: Unknown

Occupation: Former go-go dancer, former assassin, mercenary for hire

Identity: Lily's identity is known to Chinese law enforcement and has a criminal record.

Height: 5'6"

Weight: 105 pounds

Hair: Green (formerly black)

Eyes: Hazel

Known Relatives: None

Education: Lily dropped out of the Wuhan Academy for executive assistants after receiving fundamental training in clandestine operations and martial arts.

Aliases/Nicknames: None

Skills/Abilities: Lily continued to develop her skills as a martial artist and fighter, maintaining the levels of an average executive assistant in marksmanship, fighting with edged weapons and hand-to-hand combat.

Place of Birth: Unknown

Marital Status: Single

Personal History:

VOLUME 1:

Like the majority of students at the Wuhan Academy for executive assistants, Lily was an orphan that no one would miss. Unlike most, she had a tempered ferocity that gave her outstanding melee combat abilities. As a youth, she was undefeated in single combat for more than two years, considered almost ready to graduate. This meant special treatment -- eating a finer grade of food in a private dining room

and other perks. However, she was forced to face a girl named Iris who had just graduated to ring combat, and Lily sustained a knee injury that ended her reign as champion. After her defeat, Lily was forced to eat without utensils, crying on the floor at Iris' victory feast. A week later, Lily was discharged from the Academy, rejected from being an executive assistant and developing a big problem with authority.

With dangerous skills, deep-seated resentment and no one to turn to, Lily developed a substance abuse problem. She grew up in the margins of society and eventually attached herself to a tattooed thug who frequented one of Takeo Suzuki's dens of ill repute, doing whatever she had to in order to survive including stripping and acting as an operative for Suzuki. There she again encountered Iris, working for corrupt magnate Francis Wai-Hong Ching, and masquerading as a woman looking to become a dealer in one of Suzuki's underground casinos.

Lily's boyfriend was among a group of gun-wielding hoodlums Suzuki had on hand to greet Iris when Suzuki revealed his knowledge of the plan to assassinate him. Iris escaped through a hail of gunfire, and ended up killing Lily's boyfriend on a rooftop. Iris returned to find Lily had completed her assignment, killing Suzuki and the rest of his retinue and telling the "overconfident" Iris that she had never fooled anyone. Iris left the blood stained Lily in tears on the floor, again turning Lily's life upside down.

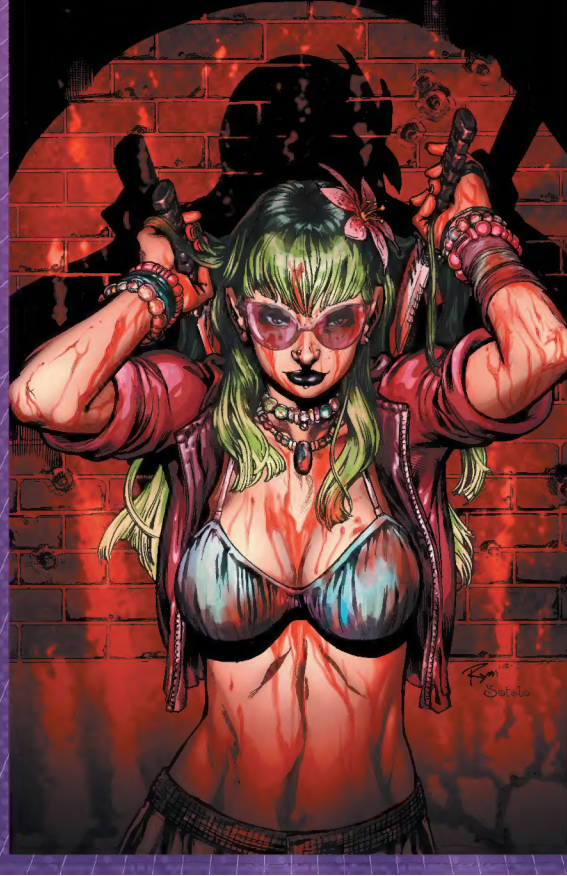
Iris re-established contact with Lily when she was tasked with invading the latest incarnation of the Wuhan Academy to kill the headmaster "Father," one of Ching's criminal business associates also known as Shuji Wai Hong Li. Lily had done reconnaissance on the new facility and outlined its defensive capabilities to Iris, including military grade security courtesy of the Chinese government. Lily also helped recruit a number of other "rejected" former students to help take down "Father." While Iris made a covert approach, Lily was able to convince the students tasked with protecting the Academy that Father was wrong and had to die. They all converged on the old man and ended his reign of tyranny.

ASSASSINS:

With no other options, Lily returned to go-go dancing for money in Tokyo's disreputable Shinjuku district. Rage management continued to be an issue for her, and when a customer got mouthy, she started a fight that ended up leaving property damaged and many customers injured or dead. Before the fight was over, she noticed Kaito, a minion of the arms dealer Mazutsu Sai, watching. The club owner Kyo was forced to fire her, which drove Lily into the embrace of heroin.

Kaito reported back on Lily's whereabouts. Mazutsu demanded her head to keep her quiet about anything she might know about the mind control chip experiments he hoped would help rid the world of executive assistants.

Lily woke up on a sidewalk with a vagrant rifling through her clothes. She scraped enough change together for a bus back to the flophouse where she normally stayed. Upon her return, the irritable landlady informed Lily she was evicted, and her meager belongings were in a cardboard box in the alley. Just as this news hit, Kaito walked in the flophouse's door with a squad of men who immediately opened fire. Lily jumped through a nearby window and fled with Kaito's men



in hot pursuit. She managed to kill two of her pursuers but Kaito got ahead of her and captured her.

Lily was taken to an empty field with a shallow grave already dug. Kaito savored the capture and just when he was about to shoot Lily in the head, one of his men shot Kaito in the back, killing him. The man then shot the remaining henchman, but reassured him his injury was not lethal. He then turned to Lily, handed her his gun and told her she needed to trust him. Despite Lily's reluctance and confusion, she complied.

The man took Lily back to a clandestine safe house where he revealed his name was Cope, and that he worked with the CIA. Lily's problem with authority reared its ugly head and she angrily berated him, attempting to leave. However, she felt a pang of withdrawal from the heroin, stopping her in her tracks. Cope quickly offered to take care of her and began to explain to her why someone wanted her dead.

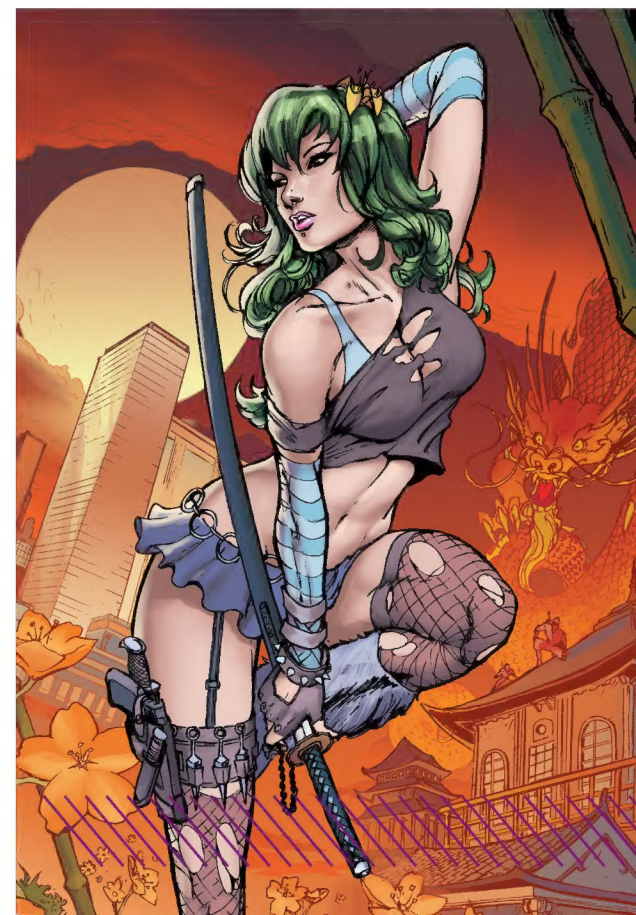
Cope revealed that the man behind her troubles was Mazutsu Sai, explaining to Lily about Mazutsu's criminal enterprise and political maneuvering to fuel an arms dealing business. Cope also revealed that Suzuki had been an asset for the CIA. Lily was sickened by this, wondering how much of her own activities had furthered the interests of the American intelligence community.

With no options and murderers looking for her, Lily begrudgingly accepted Cope's hospitality. He helped her start to detox from the heroin and took the brunt of her frustrations, as the withdrawal got worse. After a few weeks, she was off the heroin but had taken up smoking. Enjoying a cigarette on the back staircase of the safe house, Cope told her the agency called and felt she might be able to help them. Lily exploded angrily, saying she refused to be under anyone's control. She started packing and asked Cope to let her go. He reluctantly agreed to tell his handlers that she eluded him if she promised not to end up back on the streets.

Just as they were both about to abandon the safe house, Mazutsu's advisor Tarver blasted through the front door with an experimental laser rifle, literally disintegrating Cope's abdomen, cutting him in half. Tarver had gotten the location from his own CIA assets and had been tasked with killing Lily in case she knew anything from working with Suzuki. Lily eluded Tarver's destructive gunfire and scaled a building to catch him by surprise. She got him at gunpoint, but Tarver remotely detonated the laser rifle, distracting Lily enough for him to try and escape. She caught him and he told her she would never be safe due to the CIA history. Lily angrily pointed out that she didn't know Suzuki worked for the CIA before this and Tarver told her it didn't matter, surrendering. Whispering to his recently murdered wife, Tarver stood helplessly while Lily kicked him off the roof, sending him to his death.



Lily observed the crime scene from the shadows, and as local authorities examined Tarver's body, an executive assistant named Lilac was also present to identify Tarver post-mortem. Lily recognized Lilac as headmaster of the Academy from back when Lily was enrolled as a child. Later, Lily broke into Lilac's secured safe house, demanding answers. Lilac sent her Rottweiler to attack Lily, buying the retired headmaster enough time to retrieve a katana from a glass case nearby. Lily was forced to shoot the dog, then fired at Lilac. Lilac deflected the





bullet with the sword, missing Lily by inches. While Lily tried to recover, Lilac slid across the floor and disarmed her green-haired intruder. They fought, and the advantage changed sides multiple times until Lily pulled a hidden dagger from her hair and stabbed Lilac through the throat. Lily then kicked Lilac through a plate glass window to fall several stories to her death.

The next day, Lily called Mazutsu to inform him about Lilac's murder and warn him away from chasing her. They traded threats before hanging up and Lily fled to New York City's lower east side to meet with Iris. Lily told Iris that someone wanted her dead, forcing her to kill two of his minions including Lilac. Iris immediately responded, "Mazutsu," and Lily wondered how Iris knew. Iris showed Lily a hidden room full of weaponry and said she was secretly working for the CIA. Lily noted her last bad situation with the CIA and fled.

Lily went to meet the retired executive assistant and instructor Aster, whose daughter Violet had died as part of Mazutsu's machinations. They were joined by Orchid, who had been a subject of mind control created by Mazutsu and used by eccentric billionaire Duncan Villone and wanted answers.

Lily, Aster and Orchid went to visit a wealthy executive assistant named Lotus in India, only to find the morally ambiguous Rose ready to kill Lotus. Lily interrupted the killing stroke and together, they all took on Rose. Rose held her own against them all until Iris showed up with a gun, demanding the fighting stop.

Together they tied up Rose and took her to the kitchen for enhanced interrogation with simulated drowning when suddenly; the entire side of Lotus' house blew up. Lily got knocked out after gas grenades were thrown into the room. A newcomer named Ivy neutralized them all and rescued Rose, getting away unscathed.

Lily was unable to secure Lotus' help and Iris had to go back to the CIA, so Lily considered the whole trip to India a failure. She

followed Orchid to Tokyo to set up operations in a shut down hangar where drugs and stolen airplane parts were once sold. Their planning was again interrupted by Ivy, surprising them, but this time offering to help get to Mazutsu, her former lover and employer who now had her in his crosshairs. She revealed she put a tracker on Rose when she returned to Mazutsu and had his location. Ivy showed them that he was hiding in a former Buddhist temple and that the security there was beyond even all four of them together. Orchid, secretly still under the influence of the mind control chip, held them all at gunpoint. Ivy had a ball bearing in a bracelet and hurled it into Orchid's gun, throwing off the aim and shooting Lily in the shoulder. They began to fight but stopped when they heard helicopters overhead bringing Mazutsu's men.

As knock out gas grenades broke through windows, Lily and some of the others made makeshift masks, but Aster was unable to do so and fell unconscious. Ivy went to distract Mazutsu's men so Lily could take the high ground. Killing one of Mazutsu's men along the way, Lily grabbed a machine gun and mowed down mercenaries surrounding Ivy. Rose appeared through the smoke and got the drop on Ivy, forcing Lily to drop the weapon. Rose knocked Ivy out and challenged Lily to single combat. They battled furiously, trading the upper hand, until Mazutsu shot Lily through the chest as she was berating Rose. He fired a second shot, ending Lily's tragic life.

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ASSASSINS**

LOTUS



Lotus

Name: Rani

Occupation: Assassin, mercenary, executive assistant (professed)

Identity: Rani is a citizen of India with no known criminal record.

Height: 5'9"

Weight: 130 pounds

Hair: Black

Eyes: Brown

Known Relatives: None

Education: Rani was home schooled with an intense focus on physical education, espionage and assassination.

Aliases/Nicknames: N/A

Skills/Abilities: Rani is perhaps the executive assistant most skilled with firearms, particularly automatic rifles, and handguns. She has been trained in combat and murder since childhood, and is comfortable taking on multiple assailants and adversaries that have height and weight advantages.

Place of Birth: Anwar, India

Marital Status: Single

Personal History:

VOLUME 2/THE HIT LIST AGENDA:

The executive assistant who eventually came to be called Lotus was raised in a family of assassins based out of Anwar, India. Named Rani by birth, ("Queen" in Hindi), she was trained in the family business, killing her first mountain lion cub with a dagger at age eight and her first adult with a bow and arrow at age eleven. These two facts led

local villagers to tell stories of her lethality. Her father died when she was ten and she gained a pet white tiger as a companion and a man named Ishwar as a servant.

As a young adult, Rani took a contract to assassinate a man named Virat Yadav who stood in both the worlds of government and business. The contract came from a man named Nidish Khan, complete with full intel on Yadav's security. However, Lotus refused, preferring to do her own intelligence gathering.

After weeks of studying the movements of Yadav, his entire security detail, and almost everyone he knew, Lotus made her nocturnal insertion into his home. While things were initially going as planned, Rani was startled by movement with a flashlight in the dark of Yadav's home. She instinctually fired at the source, accidentally killing Yadav's young daughter, Lotus. The horror of her actions made Rani freeze when Yadav came to find the corpse of his daughter, bleeding on the kitchen floor, and Rani fled from his armed guards, aborting the mission.

Rani disappeared for a year, wracked with guilt over the death of the child, a violation of Rani's only rule as an assassin. Khan was displeased at the broken agreement and sent a team of masked assassins to kill Rani in her home. Ready for Khan's reaction, Rani used a sniper rifle to kill two of the assassins, while two more died from fast acting poison gas, released as they broke into her home. A final assailant managed to get behind her, but he fell prey to her pet tiger.

Finally broken by the weight of her guilt, the unarmed Rani approached Yadav in his home, ready to endure the repercussions of taking his daughter's life. He told her that to pay this immeasurable debt, Rani would become an executive assistant, helping him further the progress of the nation. Rani agreed, and took well to the work, excelling especially at administrating details of government business. And as is the custom of all executive assistants, Rani adopted her new identity, the name of Yadav's late daughter, Lotus.

One mission Lotus undertook for Yadav was infiltrating the Israeli embassy in New Delhi. She used cleavage to distract the guard at the gate long enough to shoot him through the frontal lobe, taking out his partner in a similar fashion before a response could be mounted. Lotus racked up a body count of seven before executing the ambassador and leaving his office laced with Semtex plastic explosive.

A year and a half later, Lotus had gained Yadav's trust and confidence, and assisted him in a meeting with Chinese businessman Francis Wai-Hong Ching and his executive assistant, Iris. The meeting passed uneventfully and Lotus researched Iris, discovering the woman's lethality and effectiveness. Lotus stayed abreast of Iris' career through the rise and fall of Ching, and accompanied Yadav to Ching's funeral, meeting power couple Daniel and Diane Coverdale. Through that event, Yadav inherited the executive assistant academy and was warned by Daniel to be careful, believing danger was at hand.

Lotus awoke one day to see Israeli and Pakistani government officials meeting with Yadav outside her window, and wondered what was happening. Yadav explained he was planning to start a war with Pakistan and the Israeli government would play a role in this for financial

gain, all to raise India's profile in the global sphere. The complexities of these machinations confounded Lotus, who questioned her role there.

She argued with him about visiting an executive assistant Academy in Myanmar. Yadav wanted to leave Lotus in India because he didn't trust anyone else to manage his business while he was away. She ignored his wishes and took a flight to catch up to him, parachuting into Myanmar.

She surveyed the facility and saw very little activity. She broke in, finding a ramshackle location that was mostly abandoned. Yadav surprised her, revealing he expected her to follow him and that she had never truly been forgiven; he was simply using her until he could exact his revenge. He then revealed ten executive assistants waiting to kill her.

Lotus was disappointed, as she had really believed in promoting the best for India. Due to Yadav's sudden betrayal, she considered her debt paid, and quickly ran into the buildings nearby, separating her assailants and killing them off individually. Just as she finished off the first two she was caught off guard by a gas attack and was all but defeated when suddenly, Iris appeared, rescuing her.

Lotus and Iris finished off four executive assistants, who were more students than experts, when the final three, all dressed identically, gave Iris some trouble. Lotus wanted to confront Yadav but instead saved Iris, finishing the rival executive assistants off easily. They finally turned their attention to Yadav, who was holding them at gunpoint. Unfortunately, not used to handling firearms himself, he had not turned the safety off, allowing Iris to wield her sword, running it straight through his heart.

Following Iris' mandate, they burned the Myanmar school to the ground. She left Iris amicably and returned to her family home and her pet tiger, only to find Villone had continued Yadav's plans for war to destabilize the region.

Lotus was soon approached by Violet to rescue Iris from Villone, fearing that her usefulness was coming to an end. They arrived at a Velchem plant in Madras just in time to save a mind-controlled Iris from dying in an explosion. They took Iris to an MI-6 facility where her mind control chip was altered to give her freedom of movement and eventual control over Villone's devices. Lotus then joined Iris, Violet, Lily and Orchid to invade Villone's compound in the Maldives. This went badly and all of them were captured.

Lotus was freed when Iris brought her mind-controlled arch enemy Rose down to the brig and they all engaged in a melee against Villone's forces. Despite Violet dying in the process, they eliminated all the hostile forces and ended Villone's threat.

VOLUME 3/ASSASSINS:

A wealthy weapons dealer named Mazutsu Sai was revealed to have been the power behind Yadav, Villone and numerous other threats. Working with Rose, he targeted Lotus as a top priority to eliminate in his campaign to rid the world of Executive Assistants.



Lotus was awakened from her sleep by her pet tiger's growling. Grabbing a machine gun secreted away in her headboard, she went down to investigate. Gas grenades greeted her, slowing her down and making her drop the weapon. Lotus was faced with a masked assailant who threw daggers and gave Lotus a flesh wound. Lotus recognized the daggers as the trademark of Rose. Unwilling to give a reason for her attack, Rose deflected her dagger when it was thrown back at her and used a stun impulse trigger to tase Lotus' tiger. Angered, Lotus began beating Rose viciously but was again surprised by the stun impulse trigger, which worked like a handheld taser. Before Rose could kill Lotus, she was hit in the hand with a dagger thrown by Lily. Aster, Orchid and Lily all fought with Rose before Iris showed up with a pistol, helping the rest capture Rose.

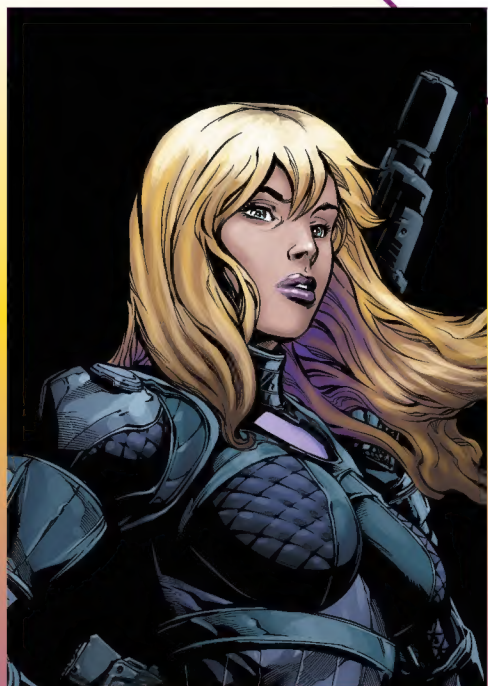
While setting Rose up for some enhanced interrogation with a water hose, Iris referred to the other executive assistants as her friends. Lotus offered that having friends was overrated, but happily joined in preparing to torture Rose to get Sai's location.

Before things got too intense, an explosion rocked the side of Lotus' house, blowing out a wall. Lotus was knocked out immediately by the new threat, a mysterious executive assistant called Ivy, who eluded the rest and escaped with Rose.

When everyone woke up, Lotus was nonchalant about having to rebuild her house, saying she'd done it before and had the money to do it. Lotus also refused to follow Lily on a mission of revenge against Sai, saying she'd prefer to face challenges on her own terms. The rest of the executive assistants left her to tend to her tiger and sort through the rubble of her home.



VIOLET



Violet

Name: Violet (last name unknown)

Occupation: Executive assistant

Identity: Violet is a citizen of the United Kingdom with no criminal record.

Height: 5'5"

Weight: 115 pounds

Hair: Blonde with purple highlights

Eyes: Blue

Known Relatives: Emma/Aster (mother)

Education: Graduated top of her class from an undisclosed executive assistant school in England.

Aliases/Nicknames: N/A

Skills/Abilities: Violet is an excellent markswoman, specializing in handguns. She has top-notch martial arts and observational skills, comparable to a high-ranking intelligence operative. When not engaged in unarmed combat, Violet prefers firearms. She keeps a dagger strapped to the inside of her thigh and can throw it with remarkable accuracy.

Place of Birth: London, England

Marital Status: Single



Personal History:

The daughter of the highly regarded executive assistant Aster, Violet excelled in the academic and martial arts areas of her work, eventually being hired by Velchem heir and former movie star Henry Vincent. She made it abundantly clear that it was not her policy to become intimate with her employers, as was the protocol with certain other executive assistants. Violet evaluated Vincent's security needs after the mysterious, suspicious death of his father.

As protesters surrounded Velchem plants in India and Ireland, Violet accompanied Vincent to a board meeting where his status as interim chairman was called into question. Before he could mount a defense, armed assassins broke in. Violet pulled out a hidden knife and sent it into the forehead of one of the attackers. She picked up his fallen machine gun and almost missed a grenade hurled at her. Vincent warned her and she batted it away with the gun, able to survive the blast from a distance with only a shard of glass in her shoulder. She used the glass as a weapon, jamming it into the crotch of an attacker. The remaining assailants fled, unwilling to risk themselves further, escaping in a helicopter that was waiting outside the window.

Outside, Vincent's personal physician arrived to patch up Violet's shoulder secretly installing a mind control chip from eccentric billionaire Duncan Villone. Stitched up and unaware of the chip, Violet next accompanied Vincent to a meeting with his business manager. She was called away by an emergency call from her mother, retired executive assistant Aster, beckoning Violet to Aster's residence. Her mother was not happy with Violet's choice of career, and upon her arrival, tested Violet's combat training. After finding out Violet's abilities, Aster took her daughter for coffee to try and explain how the life of an executive assistant was brutal and violent. Before Violet could respond, her ex-fiance Rakesh wandered by, on a break from his job at the local hospital. They hadn't spoken since she abandoned him at the altar some years before, a condition of starting her training as an executive assistant. He started to ask her about why she left him when Vincent called her back to duty.

In her absence, Vincent had agreed to a clandestine meeting with Villone, who had masterminded the financial troubles of Vincent's company. Vincent refused to allow Violet to join him as he met with Villone in a run down waterfront warehouse. Inside, Villone forced Vincent to sign away his company upon his death and then aimed a gun at the former actor. Violet burst in to save Vincent and took Villone's gun. When Vincent gave her permission to attack Villone, Violet complied, lunging at him. However, before she could lay a finger on him, Villone activated the implanted mind-control chip, taking complete control over Violet's actions. Villone ordered Violet to kill Vincent slowly.

Trapped in her own mind, Violet watched as her body obeyed Villone. Vincent tried to fight back but was no match for Violet even as she resisted. Villone explained his scheme to buy Velchem out from under Vincent and Vincent admitted to killing his father. Violet somehow was able to overcome the programming and attack Villone, digging the chip out of her



stitches forcefully. She went after Villone but he got the drop on her, firing several shots. Vincent jumped between Violet and the gun, and the impact of the gunfire hurled him and Violet out of a nearby window into the water below. Vincent died in the water, and Violet fled as bullets kept coming, swearing vengeance.

When the authorities arrived, Villone pinned Vincent's murder on Violet, with the media running with the story. Now on the run, Violet made her way to her mother's home where she found Aster had killed a group of armed gunmen who attacked her. Violet and Aster equipped some weaponry, and left together to save Rakesh, who was being tracked by another squad of mercenaries. They easily dispatched the gunmen and Violet pledged to kill Villone, threatening him through cameras worn by a sole survivor. Aster promised to help Rakesh disappear while Violet went after Villone.

Violet went out into the rain, contemplating her next step when she was approached by Orchid and Lotus, who also shared her enemy. The three executive assistants agreed to work together to kill Villone.

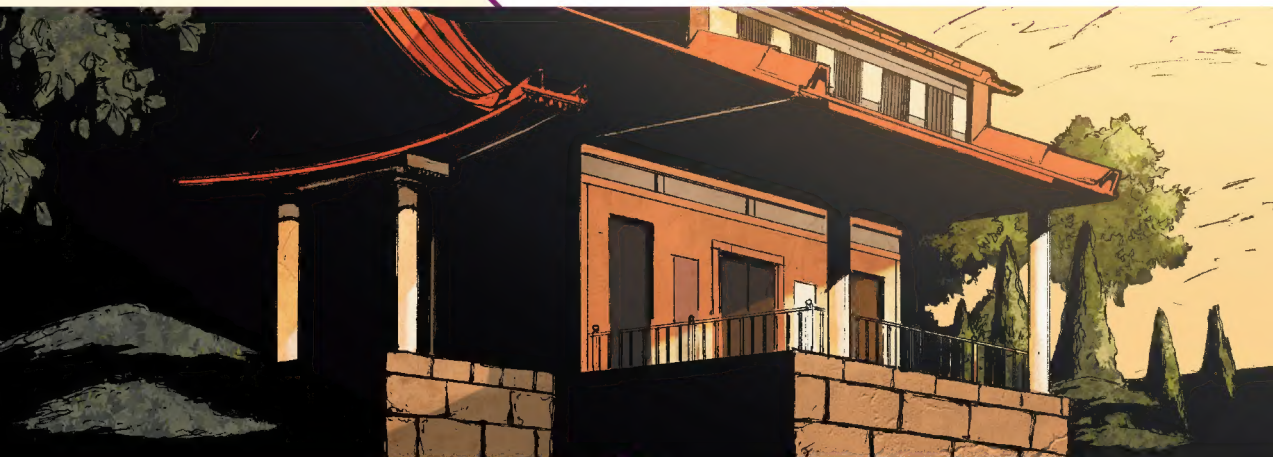
Violet and Lotus tracked the mind-controlled Iris, Rose and Juniper to a Velchem plant in India where they saved Iris from being killed. They were unable to help Iris overcome the mind control chip so Violet kicked her in the head, knocking her out. They brought Iris back to London where some of Violet's MI-6 contacts agreed to help free Iris from the chip's control.

Violet joined Iris, Lotus, Lily and Aster to attempt an infiltration of Villone's secret compound in the Maldives. They unknowingly triggered the island's defenses and were soon captured by Villone's forces. The team of executive assistants were held in a brig outside of Villone's home and were surprised when Iris brought Rose back to free them all, using alterations to the chip that MI-6 performed. As they broke out, two of Villone's new executive assistants -- Snapdragon and Wisteria -- led a platoon of mercenaries to kill Violet and her team.

As the battle waged, Violet noticed a sniper had drawn a bead on Iris and Violet jumped in front of the shot. Orchid took out the sniper but Violet died while Iris held her.



ACADEMIES



Academies

From China, to Colombia, from India, to the United Kingdom, Executive Assistants are not born, they're made.

Each school follows a strict curriculum, regardless of whether they get most of their students as orphans off the street, or young adults making a conscious choice about their futures. Each student is instructed in a variety of disciplines, including the equivalent of a business degree to better serve as wholly effective management associates in terms of business. Each one is also trained in a range of martial arts and melee combat skills focused largely on speed and lethality.

Students from schools in Asia and the Indian subcontinent are better known for using a vast number of bladed weapons whereas students from the "western world" more heavily rely on firearms. Each executive assistant is a lethal weapon herself, capable of disabling multiple attackers with relative ease even if unarmed. They also excel in means of concealing weaponry. Examples include the British executive assistant Violet concealing throwing knives strapped to her inner thighs and Iris hiding dangerous needles in her hair.

While executive assistants are trained from a younger age, they are often psychologically conditioned with a desire to serve their master in any capacity, which has led many to end up in the beds of their employers as well. This conditioning can be difficult to break even in adulthood, and has, in particular cases, been reinforced by technology in the form of microchips which supplant the executive assistant's will and decision making apparatus.

Each school follows the same naming convention, casting aside the women's original names in most cases (Violet being an exception) in favor of a flower-based name. At least two Snapdragons, trained at different facilities, are known, and given the limited number of flower names, there are women called Rose or Lily from almost every school. There are also some regional favorites like Rumdul -- alias of eventual Ang Cosmetics CEO Maly Ang -- based on geography.

There are rumors of academies in other parts of the world, producing beautiful, deadly operatives every day, all named after flowers.

EA Academies:

The known schools in the executive assistant system are:

THE WUHAN ACADEMY

The facility responsible for training Iris, regarded as the most talented and dangerous executive assistant of the modern era. The failed students of this school were sold into sexual slavery, or turned away onto the streets.

THE XIANJIANG ACADEMY

This academy was phased out under mysterious circumstances; Xianjiang is responsible for the brash executive assistant Snapdragon, who had worked for Maly Ang.

THE LONDON ACADEMY

Operating like a high-end finishing school, London Academy has been in operation since at least the 1960's, producing the likes of Aster, and her daughter Violet.

THE NEW DELHI ACADEMY

Working with both juvenile students and adults, Lotus joined after a short but successful career as a professional assassin, which enhanced her abilities and lethality.

THE BOGOTA ACADEMY

Orchid matriculated from this school after training since childhood. Given the clientele normally served, business education was de-emphasized over more visceral teachings and learning to satisfy their employers.



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